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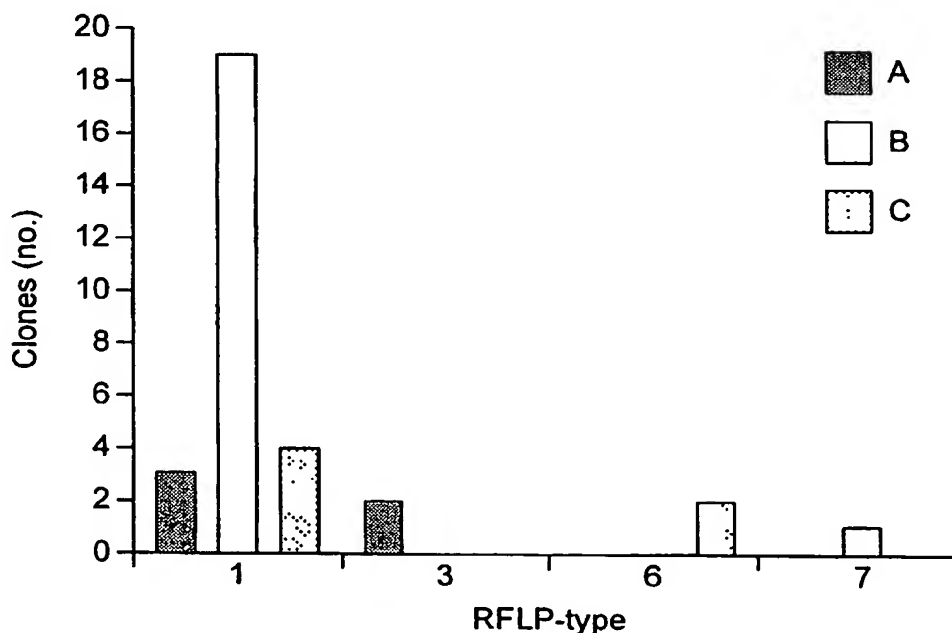
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(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION TOOL FOR HYDROCARBON ZONES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of detecting, characterising or monitoring a hydrocarbon source, which method comprises the genotypic analysis of a sample for the presence of one or more thermophilic or extremophilic microorganisms and in particular to the generation of microbiological profiles of samples and to the comparison of these profiles with profiles from reference samples.

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